

# Times .10

Your Magazines of Choice

April 1998, Vol.5 Number 7

What is a  
Friend?

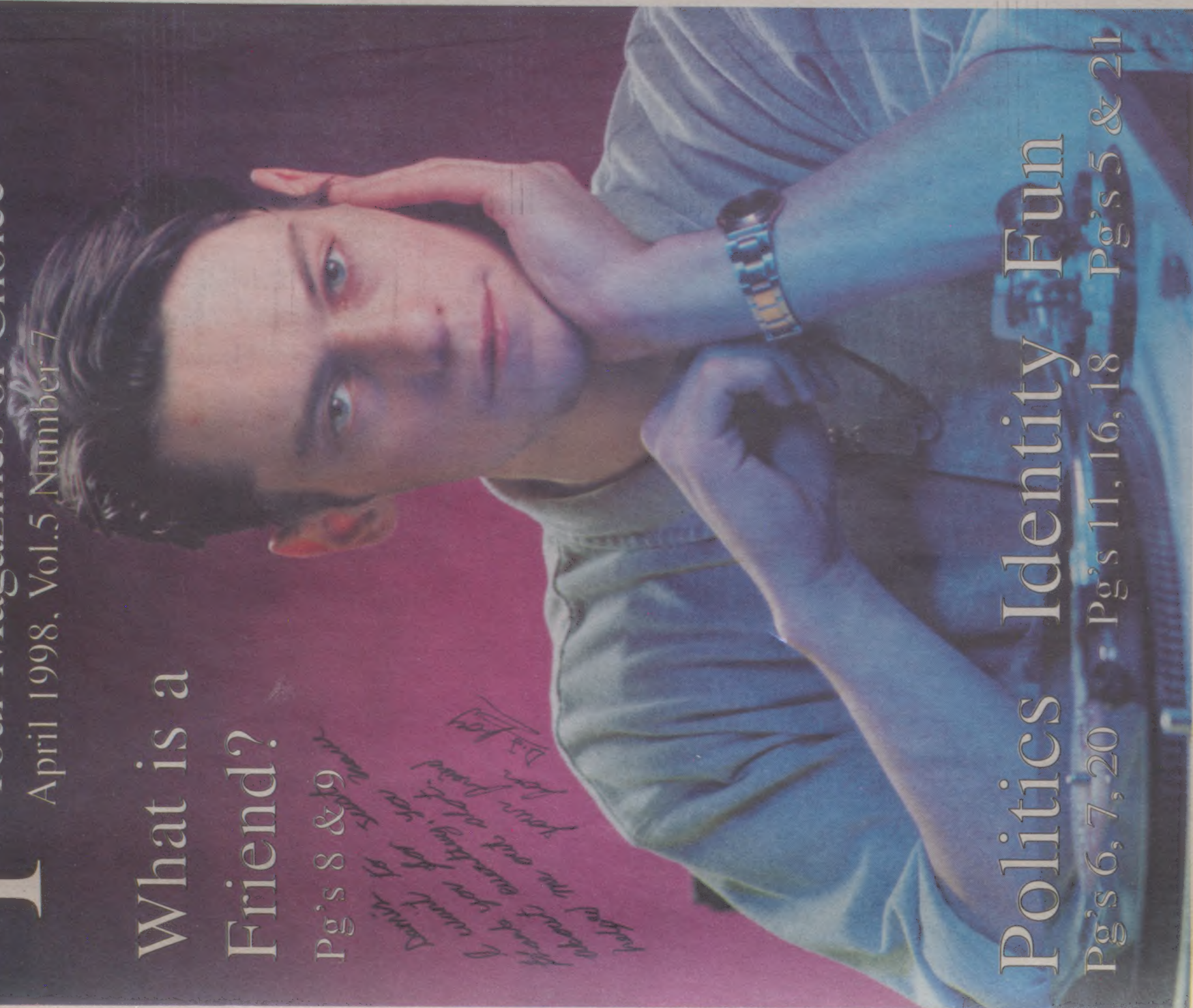
Pg's 8 & 9

*I want to  
thank you for  
helping me out and  
being my friend.  
Love,  
D.J. Lee*

Politics Identity Fun

Pg's 6, 7, 20

Pg's 11, 16, 18 Pg's 5 & 21



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# Times .10

## Your Magazine of Choice

Vol. 5 Number 7

April '98

Edmonton, Alberta

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# FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

## "Studies Reveal Early Impact of HIV Infection, Effects of Treatment"

Journal of the American Medical Association

Studies reported at the Fifth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections provide information on current HIV/AIDS treatments and disease progression. Dr. Bruce Walker of Massachusetts General Hospital reported that HIV preferentially infects anti-HIV helper T cells early in disease progression. These cells are eliminated before seroconversion, reducing the body's resistance to the virus. Walker's research suggests that early anti-retroviral treatment can aid in protecting the HIV fighting cells. Additionally, scientists discussed methods for eliminating latent HIV reservoirs via the use of Cytokines to activate latent cells or through the hastening of memory cell decay. Scientists also reported abnormal distribution of body fat due to certain antiretroviral treatments and the discovery of the oldest confirmed HIV infection, dating back to a Bantu man living in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1959.

## "No Vacancy" Signs Going Up for the HIV Infected in Jamaica"

Interpress News Service

A debate concerning mandatory testing for HIV has arisen in Jamaica following a recent survey by the National AIDS Committee which found that four companies in the country required HIV testing as a precondition for employment, with positive test results precluding hiring. One of the companies, the Jamaican Defense Force, refused entry to two female recruits due to positive test results. Ian McKnight, president of Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS), claims that the policy will mean the dismissal of skilled employees who have the potential to work for a number of years before disease progression. Approximately 10,000 Jamaicans have tested positive for HIV since 1982. The National AIDS Committee has called on the government to create a national AIDS policy and legislation that would protect the privacy of HIV-positive individuals and reduce discrimination.

## "Search Targets Those at Risk for Hepatitis C"

USA Today

Surgeon General David Satcher has announced that tens of thousands of Americans may have

been infected with hepatitis C through blood transfusions. Approximately 300,000 people are suspected to have a 40 percent to 70 percent chance of having been infected with the virus. On Thursday, Satcher



described to Congress a plan to track down people at high risk of having been infected through tainted blood, particularly people who received blood transfusions after June 1992—when new tests for the virus were instituted—from donors who later tested HCV positive. Although the test is 95 percent accurate, it may not have detected infections in individuals who donated blood during a 12-week window period before their bodies reacted to HCV. Officials also plan to contact thousands of transfusion recipients who received blood before 1992 from donors who later tested positive for hepatitis C. An estimated 4 million Americans carry HCV, although some 25 percent of them not aware of their infection.

## "Merck Gets FDA Approval for HIV Protease Inhibitor"

Investor's Business Daily

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has given final approval to Merck's HIV therapy Crixivan, which received marketing clearance via an accelerated approval process two years ago. The drug—the most widely prescribed protease inhibitor in the country, according to Merck—was approved based on research that showed it averted death and AIDS-related symptoms when used in combination with antiretroviral medications.

## "Thai 'AIDS Colony' Scheme Draws Fire"

United Press International

HIV activists have denounced Thailand's plan to construct the world's first "AIDS colony." The Thai Agricultural and Cooperatives Ministry and a Buddhist temple are reportedly attempting to construct such a facility 75 miles north of Bangkok. The "community rehabilitation center"—as it is referred to by the abbot of Lop Buri's Bat Namphu temple—will shelter approximately 10,000 AIDS patients. The colony will help to provide a secure environment for patients and will help to contain the disease, according to the abbot, Phra Alongkot Tikapanyo. Critics contend that the plan will serve to ostracize AIDS patients and that it will project the image that AIDS patients are difficult to care for.

## "Drug Use Fuels HIV Epidemic in Russia"

IPS Wire

A tenfold increase in injection drug use in Russia in the past 3 years has led to a corresponding increase in HIV and AIDS incidence. Between 1995 and November 1997, the number of IDUs testing positive for HIV rose from three to around 2,800. Health experts are unsure whether the rise is due to sharing of infected needles or sexual transmission; many IDUs share needles and engage in heavy sexual activities. National authorities have been slow to crack down on drug use, and international and non-governmental efforts to combat drug use have only just begun. According to UNAIDS, sexually transmitted diseases have risen dramatically in Russia as well.

## "Researchers Find a New Way HIV Cripples Immune System"

Baltimore Sun

A study reported in this month's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences indicates that killer T cells may briefly display a surface receptor in the latter stages of AIDS which allows HIV to infect the cells. The study would explain the mysterious declines in the number of killer T cells in the latter stages of HIV disease progression. Researchers at Baltimore's Institute of Human Virology report that the killer T cell receptor is the same as the receptor on helper T cells that HIV attaches to in order to infect the cells. One of the authors of the study and director of the institute, Dr. Robert C. Gallo,

said there is no evidence that the killer cells need to sprout the receptor molecule in order to fight pathogens. One treatment strategy, the removal of killer T cells from HIV-infected patients early in disease progression and the readministration of the cells later in the course of infection, may not be working too well, possibly because the cells are infected as they become activated. Gallo explained that by using genetic engineering, it may be possible to alter the killer T cells to keep them from being susceptible to HIV when they are activated.

## "Risky Business"

Advocate

Educators, including those from Seattle's Gay City Health project, are revamping their methods of teaching safer sex. Gay City Health Project, which attempts to strengthen gay males' commitment to safer sex, combines entertainment and education in its programs. Despite the explicit nature of some of its material, the organization has attracted funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other government sources. Indications that unsafe sexual practices are increasing are pushing the efforts to revamp AIDS education. The infection rate among young gay men is up to 4 percent per year, a number greater than the rates of the late 1980s, according to Richard Elovich of Gay Men's Health Crisis. Gay Men's Health Crisis has also changed its AIDS education methods and is now pushing open conversations among men about risky behavior.



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# Without much Gaiety

By Bob Mills



Let's see I was born in 1953, so I was ten in 1963 and twenty in 1973. God!! that was a long time ago and it certainly feels like it was the "olden days". "Olden days" or not, there is still

the ritual of coming out and each individual regardless of his spot in history, must find himself and out himself in whatever way he thinks best. The end of this story is like so many others - I just did not talk about my homosexuality to anyone who did not ask. I figured if someone was ready for the answer, then they would ask the question.

My lover of 21 years feels the same - **NO PINK TRIANGLES ON OUR FOREHEADS.**

I came out to myself very early. I was 13 when I discovered where the men went in Winnipeg to meet. Meet is actually an understatement. It was a quick encounter, safe in that nothing much was exchanged, and especially not names,

phone numbers or ages. What a great quick release for me since my friends from a few years earlier had grown out of wanting to expose our members and no one wanted to play house anymore. I still did. I felt so alone for a long while until I discovered this place.

I had convinced myself that I was just a late convert to the straight world, but as long as I was enjoying the idea of having a man touch me in a sexual way, I might as well continue until I became a heterosexual. I truly believed that I would some day just stop and live a "normal" life. I was quite casual about it at that time - I didn't much get frantic over anything. Being a "Homo" was my business - although so many people seemed to have figured it out - what pressure!!

I had girlfriends, and many. Probably that is what gave me away as a true gay person. I preferred the company of girls, felt safe in their arms and somehow they knew they were safe in my arms. I never got the reputation of pushing myself on girls although I was known as a good kisser and a gentleman who would always hold the door and someone who really knew how to treat a girl like a young lady. Do I sound gay yet?

Most importantly is that I loved the Motown sound, knew all the words and all the moves on the dance floor, and I worked part time and spent all my money on clothes and shoes and dates. Girls were no problem. The problem was that we were always just friends yet, as I got older, the pressure to be more than just friends started to get to me. I began to hate who I was - I was confused. I even thought suicide, but only for a moment. I had to gather my thoughts.

I was the youngest of four kids, having one brother and two sisters. I lived in a red-necked railroad and steel town - a suburb of Winnipeg. It is still much the same, only larger with a host of Mac and 7-eleven stores that took the place of locally owned businesses. The gay men and boys are still bred there in abundance and are still as confused as in the sixties. The gay scene and gay clubs are still in Winnipeg a safe distance away, but there is always someone who

will recognize you in spite of it all. Much like anywhere, have you ever tried to escape to Calgary on a long weekend hoping to be a new face in town only to discover that half of Edmonton is there and watching your every move? Well, on a good weekend in Winnipeg, it was really easy to lose your anonymity and get a stern reminder of how small this world actually was. I hated being outed that way.

I always wanted a house, car, nice things and, of all things, children. Well, I knew it was possible to have all of these things, but I was also too responsible to dare to attempt the children thing; it would not be fair to them or to their mother. I would make a great father. I had decided early enough, that I would NOT make a great husband. I was quite aware of my sexual urges and of my sexual preferences. I was convinced that marriage would NOT solve any problems for me, so I had to find a way of getting as much out of this life as I dreamed I could, without screwing up any one else's life along the way and I knew exactly how I was going to do it. I was going to become very independent, well educated and self-sufficient.

I went to University, was successful in not building up huge student loans, I kept my image as a nice guy with many realistic and attainable goals and I remained somewhat conservative, but with realistic bouts of exploits that would make the hair stand up on anyone's neck. There was a point in time, through all of this perfection grabbing, that I actually considered myself boring and one who was not experiencing enough real risks in life to warrant it fun - but I stuck the course and stayed in line, a self imposed fence and guardian lifestyle all of my own creation. Weekends were made for kicking up one's heels, but the weekdays were for planning and working toward my dream. I lived on my own, so I did have a choice.

I got the life I dreamed of and it did not come wrapped in the traditional female/male relationship. I met a nice man (a real looker which helped), one who really wanted the same

things I wanted - although fatherhood was out. Maybe he would be a good father to dogs, but nothing such as a real child to care for in the long term commitment department. I compromised an easy choice considering we were both male. He was responsible like I was, certainly much less settled, but he was trying very hard and willing to settle down. I really demanded only a few things: that he never makes me grovel for his love, that if he had an indiscretion that he share the news with me as soon as possible and expect to have an argument about it, and that he have some sort of belief in God or at least prayer.

So, coming out for myself was the past 32 years and settling down was 21 years ago and on going, and I still prefer to make my bed with the same man. I have not forgotten one of my dreams or expectations in this life. It has been a tough road, but I could not have made the distance without first knowing who I was and what I wanted out of life - there is nothing heterosexual or homosexual about this basic desire. I had a few things to prove to myself first, well before I could offer stability to someone else. I have become a better husband than I thought I could be, but have grown to become one hell of a great partner in most areas. I made it this far and without anyone in my family or home circle of friends ever offering a word of pity for me being gay - they are all proud of who I became in spite of life's barriers and hurdles.

Coming out was good for me, but only after first coming out to myself and setting my own standards for behavior clearly reflecting a part of my heterosexual upbringing, but melded with the homosexual reality of who I was. I am safe now. I am gay. I am proud of who I am. I am still coming out.



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# Capital City Politics



## Government Tramples on Minority Rights

By Gary Dickson  
Liberal MLA

Last week, we witnessed one of the scariest pieces of legislation ever to be introduced by the Klein government. Bill 26, the Sexual Sterilization Act, showed this government's commitment to protecting individual human rights by trampling on some of the most vulnerable people in this province. This Bill proposed to invoke the notwithstanding clause section of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to limit the compensation for Albertans who were sexually sterilized under the 1928-1971 Eugenics laws. Instead of allowing people the right to take their cases to court and be awarded a proper settlement based on the specifics of their case, the Klein Conservatives attempted to unjustly force a settlement which could not exceed \$150,000. Even though the Conservatives pulled this reprehensible bill after much public outrage, it doesn't change the fact that they even tried to introduce it in the first place. The only reason this government pulled Bill 26 is because of intense public pressure. If they thought they could have gotten away with it, they would have. Who would have been next—seniors, gays and lesbians, people with disabilities? The longer Conservatives in this province are in power the more arrogant they become. In 1972, it was the Conservative Premier Peter Lougheed who repealed forced sterilization legislation. The aim of Lougheed's *Alberta Bill of Rights* was to ensure the rights of

individuals received "protection against the abuse of the power of the state." Fast forward a quarter of a century later to a Conservative Premier who doesn't want to "keep on living and reliving" the Tiananmen Square Massacre because "nothing will be accomplished." This same premier refused to meet with pro-democracy groups in Hong Kong because he likes "to talk to people who are positive", fought against gay rights all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada and leads a government which has refused to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In a few days, the Conservatives may try to once again trample on individual rights by invoking the notwithstanding clause if the Supreme Court rules in favour of Delwin Vriend. If they do this, they will try to defend it by saying they are responding to the will of Albertans. What this government doesn't seem to understand is that you don't legislate human rights by letting the majority impose their wishes against the rights of a minority. It's time for a serious change of government in this province.

Gary Dickson  
Alberta Liberal Human Rights Critic



## Writing on the Wall?

## The Tories and Human Rights Notwithstanding Clause Threat Very Real for Vriend Case

By Pam Barrett - MLA Edmonton & ND Leader

One of the darkest days of my political career happened in March. The introduction of Bill 26, which intended to use the Notwithstanding Clause to override the democratic rights of

Albertans wrongfully sterilized years ago, scared me like no other piece of legislation in my years in politics.

Minutes after its introduction, I rose in the Assembly to launch a full attack on this legal sledgehammer. I believe my questions set the tone for the storm that erupted shortly afterward. It quickly became a national story.

While the government reversed itself and pulled the bill the very next day (I feel due in part to my interventions), the whole ugly incident leaves some very disturbing questions in my mind.

**The day they rescinded the Bill, I asked the Premier to commit to not use the Notwithstanding Clause on the Vriend Case.**

**He refused to rule it out.**

And that scares me.

If this government was prepared to strip away the rights of men and women forcibly sterilized, stripping away the fundamental human rights of gays, lesbians and bisexuals would be a piece of cake for them.

The Conservatives attack on gays and lesbians is so virulent and so vicious that I suspect much of their caucus is on the edge of their seat waiting for a chance to sweep away an entire community's right to protection from discrimination.

We have long known that this government's commitment to human rights is non-existent. They oppose open elections (except in the case of "Senators-In-Waiting") as seen in the case of Regional Health Authorities. They are the only province to oppose the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. And we all know very well their track record on inclusion of sexual orientation in the Human Rights Code.

**This is why I am still very, very wary of their intentions. Klein says it was a political error in judgement. I don't believe him. I think it was a political strategy that went wrong. Which means they may very well try again.**

The New Democrats and I will keep a very watchful eye. All Albertans should be keeping a watchful eye. Why? This government cannot be trusted to safeguard human rights.



## Upcoming Bills in the Legislature

By Laurie Blakeman MLA

Each sitting of the Legislature brings new legislation and amendments to existing legislation and unless each bill receives media attention for some reason, Albertans may not be aware of them and the impact each may have their lives. I would like to provide a list of some of the proposed legislation and a brief description of the objectives of each one. This list is not comprehensive; rather they are just some highlights of upcoming bills. In no particular order, they are:

- Credit Union Amendment Act - this Act will allow credit unions powers to conduct business similar to that of other financial institutions operating in Alberta.
- Alberta Personal Property Bill of Rights - this Act will provide a process for compensation in acquiring tangible personal property. There are gun control implications in this legislation.
- Justice Statutes Amendment Act - this Act deals with various court issues including a procedure for review of judicial conduct and the setting of judicial salaries.
- Protection Against Family Violence Act - this bill will provide victims of family violence with additional legal remedies, including a quicker process to obtain emergency orders.
- Health Statutes Amendment Act - this Act will provide for private insurance coverage in auxiliary hospitals. This means that those with private insurance coverage and who are placed in an auxiliary hospital rather than a nursing home may be reimbursed for the cost of standard ward accommodation.
- Health Professions Act - this will bring all the health professional associations that are currently self-regulating as well as those governed under a government regulatory board and occupational groups regulated by a government committee under one Act. It also provides for the



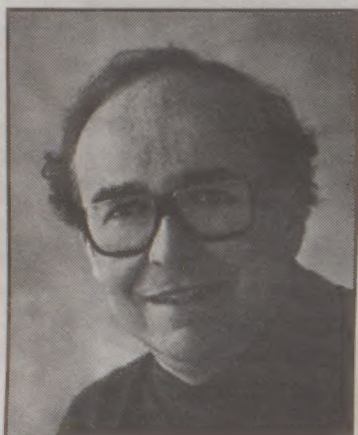
establishment of a Health Professions Advisory Board with powers to make recommendations to the Minister.

In addition to proposed legislation brought forward by government, there are Private Members Bills proposed by the opposition. Some highlights are:

- Alberta Patient Bill of Rights - the objectives is to promote the interest and well-being of patients through a bill of rights; to involve better communication between provider and patients; and the ability for the patients to understand what obligations and rights in health care provision are available to them.
- Child Welfare Amendment Act - this bill sets out to amend the current legislation by allowing the identity of a child in care of government to be released in exceptional circumstances in a timely manner. This bill also sets out to require all service providers who provide a service to children in a year under the Child Welfare Act to report to the Minister on the status of those children after a year. This report would be tabled in the Legislature.
- Whistleblowers Protection Act - this bill will ensure the prevention of action being taken against government employees who alert authorities to dangerous or illegal activities occurring in government.
- Access Enforcement Act - this bill will create the position of Access Program Coordinator to ensure that court orders for child access are enforced.
- Human Rights Amendment Act - this bill amends the current Human

Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

If you would like more information on these or any other bills upcoming in this session, please call the constituency office. If you have any ideas or concerns on these pieces of legislation, please call or write to me with them. As your representative, it is important that I have a sense of what you are feeling on these issues. You can mail letters to 10042 - 116 Street, Edmonton, AB T5K 1V6 e-mail: blakeman@oanet.com Phone 414 0743, Fax 414 - 0772.



## "ALL THE NEWS WORTH READING..."

By Councillor Michael Phair

"I know, I know. Phair's writing about Down

Under again and everyone is tired of that topic!" Yes I am going to start with the bathhouse again but then move on to a few other things as the gay, lesbian and bisexual community has become 'newsworthy' again and will be even more so in the next few months. So hold on Edmonton—the queers are out front again!

Although there is still some rumblings about the opening of the bathhouse among a couple of city politicians including the Mayor, I think that by the time you read this article all should be quiet and in the past. Interestingly over the past 10 days I have received a couple of calls from residents in the high-rises across from Down Under telling me that although they were originally concerned about late night noise, parking and other such impacts on the neighborhood, they could tell no difference from before the bathhouse opened and today! For most residents of Oliver, life goes on as before.

Edmonton's major media have recently noted the conference being held at Grant MacEwan College dealing with homosexuality and spirituality. Imagine discussions on being gay and Christianity—it's almost too much. I wonder if good 'Christians' will survive such a conference in Edmonton!

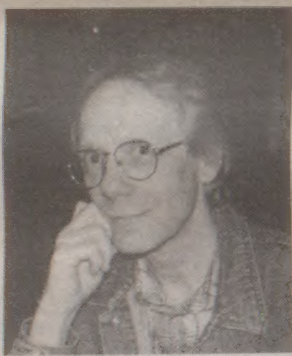
For most members of our community, the two really big newsworthy items are on the near horizon—the decision of the Supreme Court on the Delwin Vriend case and the GALA Chorus and Gay Pride Weekend in May.

Expected soon, the Supreme Court's decision on the Delwin Vriend case is likely

to push Alberta into protecting lesbians, bisexuals and gay men in provincial legislation. Although the date of the decision is not known, rumours would suggest that the Court would rule by the end of April. Do not take this lightly! Remember the provincial government's shameless attempt to recently use the 'not withstanding' clause to disenfranchise Albertans who had been sterilized. I suspect that the Province will do everything it can to not comply with the Supreme Court's ruling on gays and lesbians. Be ready—there will be a rally at the Legislative grounds on the day that the Court's announcement is made in the late afternoon. Show up—this will truly be a NEWSWORTHY DAY!

And finally mark the long weekend in May—what a time it will be! Lesbian and Gay choruses from across Canada and singers from the U.S.A and Europe. Concerts every day at the Winspear, City Hall and many other locations. Add to this Edmonton's kick off for Pride Week '98 and you have a weekend like nothing we have ever witnessed in this city. There will be at least 500 guests from out of town to sing plus tourists from all over Canada and Alberta. There will be parties, workshops, rallies and just plain fun and good times among kindred spirits—it too will be a newsworthy weekend as Edmonton enjoys the gay nineties.

Michael Phair  
Councillor, Ward 4  
(If you want information or have questions about the city contact Councillor Phair's office at 496-8146 (ph), 494-8113 (fax), or e-mail: mphair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca.



## From the Editor

by Dennis Cambly

This is a very special issue of Times .10 magazine.

The picture on the cover says it all really. Jon Burden was a true friend of this editor and to the people of Times .10. He understood that this magazine was of and about the gay and lesbian community and their friends in the Capital City of Alberta. Prepared by them, written by them and for the most part financially underwriting it. His sudden death had a great impact on many people all over this city. We lost a friend. A straight friend who never once judged us or put us down for being who we are. He often worked behind the scenes promoting this publication and

did write the occasional article on music for us. He spread his love of music through most of the clubs in this city, as DJ Joy. Never once did he flinch when it came to standing beside his gay friends and business owners. His question was a simple one: Why doesn't the gay community work together? He could never understand the level of pettiness that some people would lower themselves to within such a small group.

We asked people to write a short note answering a simple question - What is a Friend? Some did not find the answer so quickly and the variation was nothing less than great. You see it is this way, we have friends that are just as loving as Jon. We need them now more than at any other time in the history of Alberta. The Premier of this province and his fellow dictators are about to bash us as hard as possible very soon. Do not believe for one second that he will not attempt to invoke the "notwithstanding" clause

in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. When the Vriend decision comes down from the Highest Court in Canada he will snub his arrogant nose at it. He will declare that it is the "Alberta way...blah, blah, blah" We will need to show him that we are not alone in asking for equal rights by asking every friend, family member, etc to let him know that he is wrong! Then we can finish him off in the next election by getting out to vote and trash him.

The call to our friends is now imperative to stand our ground and fight for freedom. Many of our family members did this once before during World War II. When their freedom was threatened by the Nazi regime they fought so that we could have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They gave us avenues such as the Supreme Court of Canada, to assist us with decisions on our rights. Do not throw it away by idly sitting by after millions of people gave their lives for us. If you do so then you give dictators such as Klein the authority to

pretentiously speak on behalf of "normal Albertans". You allow his fat cat Nazi-like people to say that it is okay to fire someone simply because of their sexual orientation.

Take you inventory of friends today and talk to them about the inclusion of equal rights here in Alberta. Fax, e-mail or write to the government members that we have listed in this edition. Remember to send a copy of your message to the members in opposition: both Liberal and New Democrat. Since most of the opposition members are here in Edmonton it is easy to find them by phoning their offices for fax numbers etc.

We know that Jon Burden was not alone. Call your friends and ask them for help. And remember to pray to whatever God you believe in. Perhaps some enlightenment may be put into the dead hearts that govern our province.



# What is a friend?

This word was actually harder to define than I thought it would be. To get started, I checked the dictionary that stated a friend is "a person who knows and likes another, a person who favours and supports and a person who belongs to the same side or group."

By those definitions I have hundreds, maybe thousands, of friends, but I truly believe it goes beyond these definitions. A friend must do much more than like you. To me, a friend is someone who knows all about you and likes you anyway. Being a friend means more than recognizing that no one is perfect, it means accepting it. I, like most people, have many flaws. My true friends not only tolerate these weaknesses but love me because of them. They either help me see them myself without dwelling on them or they even help me to overcome some of these weaknesses. A friend is someone who doesn't ask you to change but helps you to grow.

The most important quality a friend can demonstrate is loyalty. This means standing by you when the going gets a little rough, not just in the good times.

**It means standing up for you at all times, not letting others demean you in any way, and never taking advantage of you or treating you badly.**

Being supportive is yet another important quality in a friendship. This means cheering for you when things go your way, and being there during the bad times. Good friends allow you to make mistakes that you can learn from and forgive you for them. Loyalty, support, honesty and acceptance are so important to me that I would rather have 5 friends that fit my definition as opposed to 1000 "friends" that fit the dictionary definition.

Unlike family, we choose our friends. If your "friends" aren't all of the things that are important to you, then you should ask yourself why you are calling them a friend.

- Eilish Murphy

A friend would be someone who takes you as you are, helps you when he/she can, tells you when you're so far/out to lunch that you're into next week's breakfast. He is someone in who you can confide some of your deepest, darkest secrets, has broad shoulders to cry on, should the need arise, and will be there for you, no matter what the situation, to offer whatever they can.

Somewhat sappy, maybe, but there you have it. Hope it helps.

- Walter Medak

Tonight my Friend, Norbert is coming to town and we'll get to spend some time together.

My Friend...what a pair of words! We have lots of acquaintances, a lover or two, and a few friends, but usually we only have one or two Friends. It's more than just someone you see socially, more than a person whose company you enjoy.

No, a Friend is someone more. Norbert and I share history. We have known each other since High School. We've seen each other through more changes in life than anyone except our

families and because we are not family, we offer different perspectives. We see them in the context of having been kids growing into men together. That counts for something. We've worked long into the night together, we've dated together, we've overindulged together, we've been jerks together, and we survived it. A real, deep and abiding love has grown.

This affection is unconditional. It's solid. We can build on it. It would take a major league betrayal to harm it. Knowing that, we can speak freely about our lives, our hopes, and our fears. The other will listen, applaud,



To My Friend Jon Burden

If we leave this place,  
And depart without contention

It would be recollections of your face,  
And I would give all my luck to thee.

When recalling so many others,  
With speech that is sincere.

It would be for you my brother,  
That I should toast without fear.

And when my spirit is descending  
'Tis of thee I will think;

Of how it was upon our meeting,  
And all the love you freely gave to me.

It would be indeed difficult to find,  
Someone of your disposition.  
For there are few of your kind

And now my friend  
Until next time,  
I give to you all my love.

Dennis Cambly  
March 9, 1998

encourage or empathize as necessary. And sometimes we'll laugh and prick the balloons of each other's pomposity when warranted.

We see each other twice a year, once here and once in Montreal. We don't often talk in between, but that doesn't matter. We just pick up where we left off. I know he is out there. If I need him, he'll be there to support me... He always has been in the past. I'd like to think that I have also served this friendship well, that I haven't been just a taker. He says I have, and I guess I believe him. All I know is that I would hate to lose him...but then with 25 years and counting, it feels like a safe bet.

So tonight we'll have a nice dinner and then take a long walk. We'll reminisce a little, catch up a little and talk

about things important and trivial...just like we always do. Then we'll hug, take leave of one another grateful that we each have a Friend..

- Brian Kiely  
- Unitarian Church of Edmonton

A friend may be of any age, gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, religion, or financial background.

A friend is someone with whom you have shared common experiences. A friend reflects (and reminds you of) who you are. It is possible for a friend to become an enemy, and vice versa. A friend respects and supports your choices, but will intervene when he/she believes you have become a threat to yourself and others.

A friend is someone with whom you can carry on a conversation, one sentence per year, if that is all that is allowed. A friend may know nothing of your family, but behave as though a part of it. A friend may not remember your birthday, but knows how to make you laugh. A friend doesn't threaten you in any way, and is even less threatened by you. A friend enjoys your successes as though they were his/her own.

A friend respects your attitude towards work.

A friend recognizes the effects of time upon you, but jokes about how age is affecting him/her. A friend who has wronged you will admit the deed, and wait for your forgiveness when the scars have healed. (If ever.) The best friendships are those where there are a shared set of values. Differences in values will cause the relationship to blow hot and cold, with the potential of a good friendship rarely being realized.  
- Mike Wilson

I must admit that when Dennis asked me: "What is a Friend", I thought it was going to be a quick ten to fifteen minute exercise. After all, I taught for years, and I always gave my students this assignment. In retrospect, I was too tough on them - this is not an easy task.

I thought for days, coming to realize that I actually have no friends. I was convinced that something was wrong with me. Sure I have a partner - but everyone needs a friend. I did my research literally everywhere, stooping as low as listening in on senior's conversations in a mall.

I have come away from this experience with a new sense of "What is a Friend." A friend is someone who is your equal in the hierarchy of life. He is someone who promotes you, your ideas and your personality to others while willingly participating in your life with interest and anticipation. Friends are not afraid to furnish you with criticism or provide mediation for an opinion they retain is as equal and as sane as your own. A true friend assumes many roles in your life and is always willing to be a buddy, chum, confidant, ally, counselor and partner.

**A friend is honored with the same knowledge that you harbor in the dusty shelves of your own thoughts, never meant to be public with anyone except God and those who need to know.** The daily reflection in your mirror must be the exact same "friend" or he will be tough to identify, find, and keep.

- Bob Mills

My friend is someone I can turn to with the need to share a grief or joy and they are always ready to listen to me. I can call on my friend for help at any time of day or night without hesitation and know that I will be heard and responded to appropriately. My friend nudges me to explore how I am feeling about situations and how I am dealing with challenges. My friend assumes nothing from me other than my reciprocated love and loyalty. My friend never



judges me or makes a put-down remark about them or me. My friend can count on the same respect from me.

- Charles Bidwell

Friendship is Potent We're made for love. Love, a verb, an action word, completes us. We crave love. We're unhappy when we can't do love. Without love we become emotionally, intellectually, physically and spiritually deformed. Among the many types of love, there's one that's often overlooked: friendship.

Friendship love is potent. Friends hope for the 'best' good in each other and accept the shortfalls. Friendship is built on radically mutual equality and respect. It is ready "to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes." (1 Corinthians 13) The respect and care of friendship can heal broken families and communities. Bonded by a covenant of tender, humble and generous solidarity, friends the world over seek only to love and be loved. Friendship is the hidden energy calling nations to justice.

My friends are women and men, straight, lesbian and gay. Our love for each other is nourishing and healing.

We share in each other's joys, fears, triumphs, failures, and loves. My friends and I have endless deep and meaningful talks, we play together, laugh and cry together. We witness each others growth toward becoming all that we're created to be. To say, "I couldn't live without friends" is very close to my truth; I wouldn't want to try.

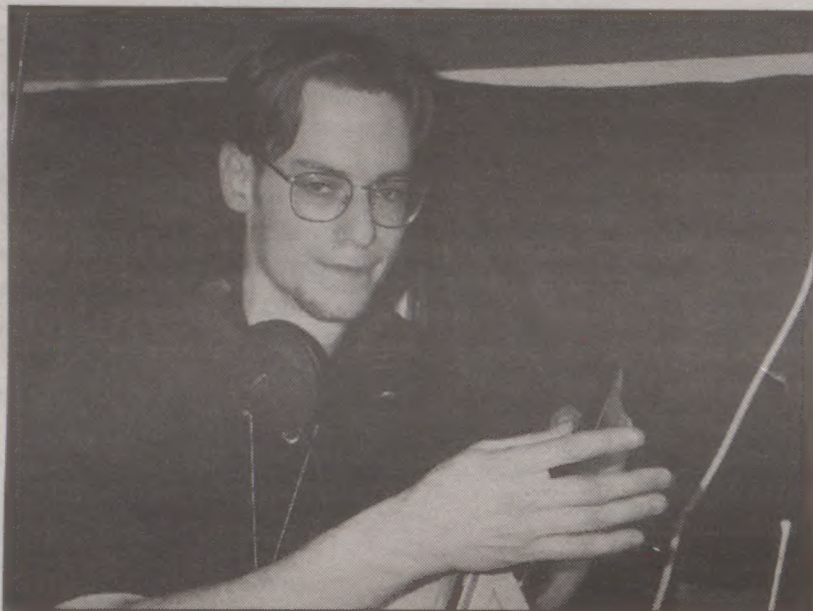
I've joined the Company of Friends for life's trek. Joined by a pact of earthy equality, respect, and solidarity, we're unshakable companions "in sickness and in health, for better or for worse, for rich or for poor..."

- jill ferguson

Last week when Dennis asked me to submit something about "what is a friend", I sat down to work on it- and realized that it is quite a complex subject, one that has kept me pondering and noticing all week long.

The question of friends and friendship has been raised in this issue in a special way, on lots of levels.

After much pondering, I found my answer after lunch



with a good friend- when I left, even though we had had some talks about some hard stuff, we had laughed lots, and as I shared a big hug, I felt hopeful. Not in any specific way, just generally. A sense that the world really is an all right place to be and that it will continue to be an all right place.

Notice "all right". Not OK (someone taught me not to use OK to much, since it requires you to figure out what isn't ok for you). Not perfect, wonderful, but all right. Not that ugly stuff doesn't happen or exist.

Lots is being written about hope, about how two folks with the same diagnosis of cancer live and last differently and difference is that one is hopeful and the other not. Some kids grow up in hell and still have hope and live a happy life. Others don't and we don't know why. It does seem that a mentor, one important adult who believes in you can make a big difference. That a teacher, neighbor, aunt, friend can overbalance the forces of nastiness and help nurture hope.

Who did that for you? Can you remember the moments when that person connected with you and you felt fine and accepted? Do you ever allow yourself to reconnect with that moment? Where is that in your life now?

Another part of hope is called Destructive Hope. That tricks you into staying in an abusive place, with an abusive life going on, since perhaps if you are just good enough, or different enough somehow, all will be well. It keeps you from grieving and mourning, from knowing the pain and not wanting to feel it. It keeps you from hearing the voice inside that knows only too well what you need. It keeps you saying, "next time I will tell her but not now" or "it really was my fault" or "I can't live without him".

So, noticing the nurturing and enriching hope, attending to what the destructive hope is saying, and being curious about how they work in your life is an interesting exploration. Done with friends, done alone, done with partners and family, it all makes a difference.

- Liz Messiah

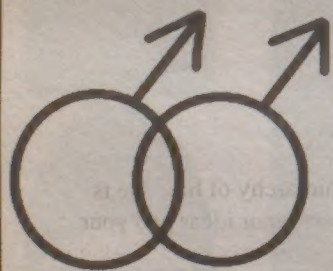
Come here and be My Friend

Come here and sit by me. Listen as you often do to my account of the day's events, about the things that made me happy, those things that make me sad. Allow me to feel. Come here and share a coffee with me. Let's debate the issues of the day. Let's challenge each other's values and ideals, learn from each other and discover new insights. Come here and let's cry on each other's shoulder. Let's

Continued on page 10

# Harold Smith

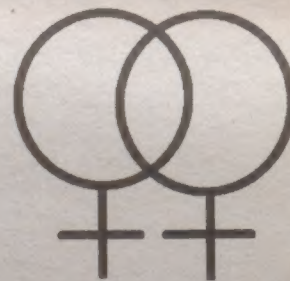
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## What is a Friend?

Continued from page 9

protect our safe place, a haven where our emotions, our thoughts and our words are not turned against us. Come here and ask me about myself. Examine who I am. Let your eyes tell me that I am a fascinating and interesting person. Care that I am here with you.

Come here and embrace me. Satisfy my need to be touched. Validate my body. Help me to feel physically connected to you.

Come here and share your time with me. Let me know that you would rather be with me than somebody else. When we are apart, phone me, mail me a letter or send flowers.

Come here and laugh with me. Tell me a funny story. Encourage me to laugh at my own follies. Tease me with anecdotes attached to memories that only we have.

Come here and be my strength. Help me out of a funk. Show me I can depend on you. You will support me even when you don't really understand. Come here and be my friend.  
- Andrew Schuster

Well, here is my sense of friends. A difficult question Dennis!

A Friend is a gift you give yourself. One who views the world with a similar vision. One will give you a good listening too. There is nothing more wonderful than to be heard. Despite what is happening in our busy world you can count on a friend to "be there for

you". Knowing you will never be abandoned or left alone to face the harsh realities of our world on your own. Having a friend that HUGS YOU and means it. A hug that transfers the caring, compassion and vitality that can exist between two people. Sometimes, when a hug is not enough, when you are in your darkest hours a friend that will hold you and reassure your importance. A friend is respectful of others and their relationships, who is also able to be honest with themselves. Honesty, dignity, respect, and trust are integral parts of any friendship. Being able to share your deepest darkest fears along with your hopes and dreams. All with complete faith that your thoughts will be kept in confidence if that is your wish. Someone with whom you can walk, dance, vacation, debate, challenge, learn, laugh or cry and yes even fart... without fear or trepidation. To be with a friend in silence, sharing space and feeling the connection of confidence that only tried true and tested friendships can attain. The pride knowing someone knows you better than anyone in whole wide world. Friends are a natural part of my family.  
- Murray Billett

When asked about what I think a true friend is, I not only thought about what I appreciate in my friends, but also what I hope my friends see in me.

In my opinion, out of all relationships, a friendship is the easiest to maintain, although they can quite often be taken for granted. A friend sees all of your dark & nasty secrets & faults, but still decides to love and accept you in spite of all that. You could have a bitter fight with them and then 20 minutes later, they will let you borrow that shirt of theirs that you've always wanted. No matter how "weird" you

say your family is, they never hold it against you. They don't keep track on who remembers whose birthday more often. Boyfriends may come and go, but they'll always stand by you. Your closeness with them isn't hindered by the miles that may separate you. Most of all, a true friend has the comforting strength you can draw on when you feel like you can't face the world alone.  
- Garrett Paquette

I know this must be late but defining a friend is easy.

A friend is someone you care about, someone that cares about you.

A friend is someone you can make happy, and likewise can make you happy too.

A friend is someone you enjoy sharing with and likewise shares with you.

A friend is someone you enjoy the company of and likewise likes spending time with you

A friend is someone you can ask for help and doesn't expect a return.

A friend is someone you are willing to trust and who trusts you

A friend is someone you can forgive even though he let you down because he'd do the same for you

A friend is anyone that is willing to be a friend.

Anyway that is my two minutes on the subject of friend.

Doesn't everyone know what a friend is?

- Love Ken



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# AH, THE GOOD OLD DAYS - NOT

It was 1955 and I was 20 in Steel Town (Hamilton, ON) and I was single. I was also "definitely different", although I didn't have a word for that distinctive difference.

I knew from a very young age that my eyes dilated in response to hunky men. I remember once my father took me to the Y to get me to agree to join and become the sports nut he was. We got a guided tour of the place and I was unimpressed. I was pudgy and hated the idea of being even partially naked where anyone could see my Pillsbury body. Then we hit the pool and my mouth must have gone as slack as my knees and my eyes bulge. There was Adonis in the flesh coaching the tykes and everyone was buck naked. I have an image of the coach walking around in my head to this day. I had seen an angel. There was a God after all. Regardless, or perhaps because, of that I refused to join. I couldn't run the risk of getting excited in the presence of such delicious maleness.

In high school, I just thought that I was slow in getting out of the adolescent "guys playing with guys" stage. You know that period when older boys discover that they can squirt and check out each other's pistols and may even have contest to see who can shoot the farthest. Well, target practice aside, I loved all this too much. Unfortunately, my buddy moved on to lusting after girls and left me to deal with matters on my own.

Ah, the good old days. I can remember reading in whatever texts I could uncover that masturbation would lead to insanity or at least hairy palms. Some later said that you'd go blind, but I wasn't deterred - I'd just have to revel in the touch aspect. (I've sometimes said that if guys are going to leave me in the dark, I'll just have to discover them by Braille.) Anyway, I did take matters in hand and spent longer in the bathroom than some of my family thought necessary. "Have you fallen in?" was often asked of me through the locked door.

I had heard my dad talk of sissies and I understood them to be girlish boys or men - weaklings in voice and bearing - and I knew that wasn't me although I didn't know what WAS me. I sensed that I'd better not share the news of my uniqueness, or act on it, because I heard of guys getting the lust beaten out of them when they made a move on another guy. The successful ones were kept very secret, at least from my innocent ears.

So what was going on with me? One summer, at a Wasaga Beach news stand, I discovered "Modern Man" magazine. Male bodies in monochrome professed to be body builders, and there was even a section for guys who wanted to be penpals. I bought the magazine and poured (squirted?) over it for days. I lay in wait for the next issue and then got up the nerve to subscribe. It came in a "plain brown envelope" and didn't get opened until I was safely secreted in my bedroom. Ah, the good old days and the delight of a vivid imagination for what might be beneath their loin cloths.

Then I went to McMaster University and, at 25, I still had no idea that anyone else in the world felt the way I did. I had girl friends. I even dated them and they were impressed with how gentlemanly I was. I preferred double dates so I'd have a guy to look at with some immunity.

When I was working in the steel mill to earn tuition, I discovered that there was a large shower facility where the workers washed away the grime of the workplace. I got to look forward to showering

each day and made a thorough job of it as I basked in the company of glistening, wet male bodies. But I was still solo in wonderland.

After I'd cajoled all my classmates into taking dates to the Freshman Ball, they turned on me with the same demand. I hunted around for a suitable date and went. I enjoyed her company and later married her. I had come to the conclusion (ah the good old naive days) that there were only two options: live as a spinster or get married. We had children and it was delightful to be part of an intimate family. But part of me was starving.

At the age of 27, I met another man at a church conference who caught my attention and I discovered that he felt the way I did. Wow, I was connected to a kindred soul for the first time and the floodgates opened. I asked if there were any others (ah the good old naive years). He said there were many others; he was from Toronto! He invited me over and I snuck away from my family and went dancing with him in a line dance to "Baby Elephant Walk". It was the first time I had held another man in my arms and I discovered some other joys of dancing. Did I now realize what women liked about dancing?

When young folks today despair about the social and political climate in Edmonton, I try to help them see that these are the good days and that they are getting even better - just not as quickly as some of us would like, but they're a darn sight better than the "good old days" I grew up in.

Charles Bidwell

## Like to Travel? Athletically Inclined or Culturally Inspired

Perhaps you should attend Gay Games V in Amsterdam this August 1st through 8th. This huge event has chosen as its theme "Friendship through Culture and Sports". Gay Games V will consist of numerous cultural events

such as Community Art, Marching Bands, the Choir Festival, Women's Festival, Storytelling Festival, the Film Program and a varied selection of other performances and exhibits. The athletic side will consist of thirty sports offering a range from dancing to figure skating to windsurfing to the more traditional sports such as bowling, softball, marathon running, and squash. Be a spectator, participant or both.

Team Edmonton is your local source for information about Gay Games V. Our goals are to provide liaison with the Gay Games V organizing committee, promote the Games and to raise funds for assisting in providing Team Edmonton with a unique team identity. For participants and spectators attending Gay Games V, we are providing a network service.

**If you would like more information about Gay Games V or Team Edmonton, feel free to call our 24 hour message line, 403-988-4612 or visit us at our Trade Fair Booth at the Edmonton Sheraton Grande Hotel during the Canadian Gala Choruses Festival '98, May 15-18. Be confident that information you leave with Team Edmonton will be used in trust only by Team Edmonton.**

Everyone is invited to attend Team Edmonton's General Meeting on Saturday, April 25th, 4PM at GLCCE, Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. In addition to the annual executive elections, we will be discussing the future of Team Edmonton and possible alternatives. It will be a meeting well worth attending.

Mark your calendar now for Team Edmonton's Second Annual Home & Garden Tour and Garden Party 98 scheduled for July 5th, 1998. This will be our last fundraiser before the Amsterdam Gay Games V and will also serve as the send off to all those bound for Amsterdam.

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# Edmonton's Gay Community Support Groups and Services

## AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

The Network retains its original operating philosophy: to provide support and education wherever it can be helpful in north central Alberta. AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network call 488-5742

## Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 101 St. Last Saturday of the month, at 7:30 - 9:30 PM For more info call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis at 434-4808

## Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

## AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

## Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

## The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

(A group for hairy men and their admirers) meet the last Friday of the month 9:00pm - 11:00pm at Boots n' Saddle. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

## Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 454-1479 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail: garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

## Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay, lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Dennis at 482-6845

## Edmonton Prime Timers

Prime Timers is a social fraternity for older gay and bisexual men and their friends. The purpose of Prime Timers is to

provide an opportunity for mature gay men to fraternize and join together in a program of social activities. Meetings held 2nd Sunday each month at the Unitarian Church at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information address correspondence to Chairman, Edmonton Prime Timers, Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6. Contact Peter at 426-7019. E-mail: mercury@planet.eon.net

## Edmonton Vocal Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbian community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

## Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

## Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

We have 3 divisions: 1) Fun/Recreational - Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; No regular commitment needed: Now until end of June you can join anytime. Fee: \$10.00/year: Level: Beginners to Intermediate: Donnan School - 79 Ave & 87 Street. 2) Competitive - Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m.; Fee \$35/8 week period; Coaching & Games each night. 3) Beach - Day/time/cost TBA; June to September. For more Volleyball information call Ron at 428-3375

## Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, drop-in peer support counselling and social activities arranged and sponsored by the centre. Further information is available at 488-3234. E-Mail glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

## Gay Mens' Coffee Evenings

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 403-463-2098 (Graham) E-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

## Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities to "call our information and contact line at 944-1394 ext 4662.

## Gay and Lesbian Awareness (G.A.L.A.)

We are an organization interested in human rights issues especially related to sexual orientation and changing Federal and Provincial legislation. We are always interested in new members. If you are interested call Murray Billet at 482-7421

## Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. Our main goal is to provide a safe, discreet and friendly atmosphere where

we can socialize as a group. We also provide information and peer support for members. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information write to Illusions Social Club Club Please change the mailing address to Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone either 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

## Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the last Wednesday. For meeting location and time please see the Court notice boards in Boots and Saddle or the Roost Our website is at: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

## Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information.

## Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Gareau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m.

## Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993 Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community formed a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more Info call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

## Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

## Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Tim at 482-2294, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

## Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail: Charles.Bidwell@UAlberta.ca

## Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern chaps meets at Boots &

Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM. For information phone GLCCE at 488-3234 for more info. and add the e-mail address: geoffw@compusmart.ab.ca

## Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, at 5:00pm September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre, Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information please call Gary Billet at (403) 454-8609 or Krystal -Seitner-Hager at (403) 489-1733.

## Out and Out (O2)

An Outdoor and Recreation Group for Edmonton's Lesbian Community and their friends. Membership is \$5.00 per calendar year. Free newsletter published bimonthly and available at local gay hangouts. O2 Hotline is 988-3132 for activity inf., who to contact, how to join etc. Get Involved - Have Fun - Meet New People.

## OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

## PFLAG

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month.. Newsletter editor Ellen at 465-3057. Outreach to speak confidentially to a PFLAG volunteer 944-1394. Voice Box 3524 (PFLAG) Mon-Thurs, 7-9:30 p.m. (Recording 24 hrs a day). E-mail: showrish@compusmart.ab.ca

## S.O.L.O.

Social Organization for Lesbians Only is a group that gets together for fun and recreation. Lesbians over 18 are welcome to join in for weekend functions and entertainment. We combine friendship, companionship and support with singles and couples welcome. Call Linda at 447-4776 or Marlene at 488-3 8 7 8

## Team Edmonton

Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton call 482-2789

## The Youth Group

"Youth Understanding Youth", meets every Saturday from 8 to 10 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 stree. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information or the give your input phone GLCCE at 488-3234 or email: glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

## Visions

Unitarian Church of Edmonton Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

## Womonspace

The purpose of Womonspace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information phone 482-1794 and visit our Web Page address is - <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>



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Vol. 1, No. 12 March 26, 1998

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**DJ: MIKEE**

LEVEL 1:  
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HAPPY HOUR  
8:00 - 10:30

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HAPPY HOUR  
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LEVEL 2:

**DJ: DAVEY**

LEVEL 2:



# WHAT HAVE YOU REALLY LEARNED?

Recently, a friend asked me to be a guest presenter at a conference dealing with spirituality and its relationship to gay and transgendered individuals. And coincidentally, this was a subject I had previously chosen to deal with in this issue. But then, there really is no such thing as coincidence.

Although the spiritual opportunities presented to me during my transition from male to female are unique to me, I do not doubt that the same opportunities exist for my Gay brothers and sisters. The whole experience of coming out, admitting who we are, to both others, and ourselves is such that at least some soul searching is unavoidable. Traumatic experiences tend to lead one into asking the kinds of questions we were once unable to envision.

For many, at least from my experience, the issue of spirituality is fleeting. It just never seems to become an important aspect of their journey and sadly, is left in its dormant stage deep within us, once the crisis of realization and admission has passed. We've told, we're out, and somehow that seems to be enough. My journey, on the other hand, has been one of tremendous self-discovery, of finding out who I really am, beyond the boundaries of my gender issue. Of attempting to find the meaning in this turn of events in my life. And unquestionably, this has been the single most significant event of my entire life. This may or not be singularly unique to the Transgendered.

Facing my reality has taught me much about spirituality in general and at the risk of offending some. I must make it clear that I have not found comfort in mainstream religious philosophy with its boundaries, rules and narrow judgements but instead within a less traditional context that is universally applicable. I must also make it clear that I do not condemn those who choose to follow a traditional path of spirituality, as long as that path supports a value system that respects all of us as unquestionably equal.

Early on in my journey I discovered that I had to deal with tremendous emotional hardship. In fact my admission of who I really was had far reaching implications for my future and I took those first steps fearfully. I was forced to end an otherwise happy relationship with a very special person that spanned more than twenty

years. I risked the alienation of my children, my brother, my mother and many close friends. This was not a pleasant time in my life and at times I was very tempted to turn back to the safety of what once was. To cling to that old familiar territory.

It was during this period of conflicting remorse and resolve that my psychologist suggested that the source of my pain might be rooted in a learned value system that was simply alien to my true spirit. In other words,

she said, "what makes you think that those so called accepted practices, the way that society expects you to act, the learned behavior inflicted upon you for your entire life, and the basis for how you judge yourself, is right?" "Perhaps", she went on to say, "it was time for us to realize as a species, that we have created a road map of acceptable behavior for ourselves that precludes all expressions of individuality, of our true selves. Who are you really?" she asked.

This struck an instantaneous chord with me and I began to give this entire issue of "true self" or "soul" considerable thought. I read all I could find on the subject and I did much "soul" searching. **I looked inwardly, truly for the first time in my entire life.**

Who was I, at the deepest level? What special gifts did I have that could serve others? What contributions could I make as a person to this life? In what areas of my life had I been untruthful to others and myself in an attempt to live up to the expectations of those close to me? In what ways had I fashioned my life and myself simply to comply with my culture? What learned behaviors stood in the way of my true happiness? In a perfect world, what would my life look like?

These questions and many others led to a re-discovery of who I was. The answers enabled me to sum up the courage to live my life in a way that honoured who I was. And ultimately to interact with those with whom I came in contact in a way that honoured their souls as well. No more idle judgements of right or wrong based upon a social model that is largely flawed. No more gossip or vicious

innuendo. No more lies to further myself. No more relationships of convenience. And most of all, no more praises unspoken.

Admittedly, I have not perfected this way of being to the degree that is truly possible, but I am so much further along now than at any other time in my life that turning back is simply out of the question. And I will continue to work on it, to perfect it, to explain it to others in the hope that they too will see its wisdom. In the end, however, this

all know, deep down, to be right.

It seems to me that the experience of admitting who we are from a gender or sexual orientation perspective, to ourselves and others is very likely one of the most significant experiences of our lives.

**It exposes us, lays us open in a very real way, allowing us and others a glimpse of true self that most would never show.**

In my case it was only the beginning of a process that took me far beyond the boundaries of my gender admission into territory not yet discovered. And today, more than two years later, I am more content, more fulfilled and more at peace with myself and those who are very close to me than at any other time in my entire life.

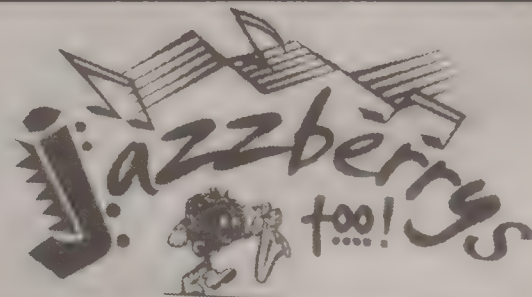
My spirituality comes not from a book of rules, nor any faith in traditional religions, but simply from the belief that we are all ultimately capable of true honesty, of a pureness of spirit, when we really care to take a close look. Perhaps the words of one author say it best... "The paradise within us can never really be lost. We may lose sight of it, yet it is always within our reach."

**So what have you learned from your journey?**



entire exercise has taught me to love myself. Not in an egotistical manner but in a giving way; a way that allows me to forgive myself for my past transgressions and release my "hold of need" over those close to me. Accepting the ebb and flow of my life without regrets or expectations. Living the belief that my future will unfold in direct relation to how much or how little emphasis I place on that set of ideals we

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# SPEAKING OF "NORMAL"

**Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW**  
Registered Clinical Social Worker

At a professional meeting recently, the woman sitting beside me was talking about some elderly women on a cruise who had hired some male escorts. Actually she used the word "gigolo" which sounds much more adventurous, to be their dates and dance partners. Her comment was that the men were "dreadfully gay". But at least, she continued, there was no need for them to be sexual with the women- it was hard to tell which would have been more unhappy about being sexual - the elderly women or the gay men!

A rare thing happened, in that I was speechless- too astonished and quite flummoxed to be able to respond. Literally my shoulder was touching hers at times during that lunch meeting- but somehow she has not figured out that there are "dreadfully gay" folks everywhere.

Later that afternoon I found myself tearful, wondering about the meanings she meant, wondering about the power of the silence that ensued at the table- as usual everyone was waiting for the "out

dyke" to respond to the insult. But I remained silent, as did all the others. Wondering about the power of silence, of don't rock the boat, its not worth it in this situation to challenge her, wondering how to even start. Wondering how she can have a senior position in a health service facility, and see the world so narrowly.

Wondering about the wonderful time that I bet those four elderly women had with the four gay men. And the possibility that the cloak of presumed heterosexuality is so strong that she never even wondered if perhaps these were four elderly lesbians off on a cruise. They were having an eat joke on everyone by bringing these chaps along.

Defining themselves as they needed, looking after themselves as they saw fit and were able, putting it over beautifully on the world. I chuckle when I envision it. And the chatter in the staterooms later that night, as the "old women" had a nightcap, the "dreadfully gay" danced up a storm. Perhaps there is another story being told here, that has slipped past that darkening cloak of heterosexuality. Our visibility is our greatest strength but our sense of humor sure helps too.

So, how are the changes coming along- the tiny noticings that lead to someone saying to you - "You seem to be more yourself these days, what's going on?". Sometimes our true core selves seem more like Peter Pan's shadow and tiny noticings help draw our attention back to our core. Ever thought what would happen if we each had a lacrosse net (very Canadian, but maybe another

image works better for you) in the back of our heads. That let all the nasty stuff that distracts us from ourselves just keep on going through, but that grabbed on to all the neat noticings in each day, and presented them to us each night in our dreams. Sort of like an internal dream-catcher for all the quick moments of "yeah, that is fine". Just a thought.

Please send comments questions or suggested topics - they are more than welcome. Phone 910-3050

us all the important details in a short letter, including your name and a contact phone number.

We are also accepting nominations for the Maureen Irwin and Michael Phair Awards. These awards recognize individual, long-term contributions by a lesbian and a gay man. Selection criteria include a combination of level of outness, long term commitment, breadth of accomplishment and the personal attributes of leadership, honesty and integrity. If you know someone who deserves to be recognized, let us know about her/him!

The awards will be presented at a ceremony on Saturday May 23 at a mixed Pride dance at the Arts Barns in Old Strathcona.

Submissions must be received by May 1 at GLCCE. If you have questions or would like further information, please contact one of the selection committee: Murray Billett, Fred Dicker, Jacqui Dumas, Kristy Harcourt, Lorna Murray or Roz Ostendorf. GLCCE@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca or Box 1852, Edmonton T5K 2P2.. Don't by shy!

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## Are your friends fabulous? Then tell us!

Tell the world about the accomplishments of your wonderful friends! Nominate someone for a Pride Certificate! Every year, the Pride Committee recognizes special events, individuals or groups who have made a difference in our community. The certificates can be to recognize something that has happened this year, or historical contributions. Send

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Telephone 488-3234

**PFLAG/T**  
(Parents, Friends of  
Lesbians & Gays/Transgender)  
Telephone 462-5958



## Hi guys,

This is just a comment to add to Michael Phair's commentary "Hurray For Our Media" in the March 1998 issue of Times 10. While Michael began his article by questioning the value/need for independent gay/les/bi publications, he identified, by example, the importance of "Our" media.

As a leader of the gay/les/bi/transgendered community in Grande Prairie and rural northwestern Alberta, there is an even more important value to "Our" media's existence and availability. For many of us in smaller centers and rural Alberta (and beyond), these publications (such as Times 10, Outlook, Extra and Extra West, Perceptions, as well as the glossy ones such as Fab, Out, Advocate, etc.) provide what is often a significant or the only contact that isolated gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered individuals have with the community.

The gay/les/bi media helps to reduce the sense of isolation, and I know many who look forward to every issue of Times 10 and other Western publications. It lets us know what is going on. It helps us to feel a part of the "community", and for many, it helps to understand ourselves - that we are not freaks, or disease-ridden faggots, or any of the other descriptors we learn about homos in rural Alberta.

The gay/les/bi media is an essential component to gay life in the country and in smaller centers. I feel that if these publications can comfort and warm just one isolated "homosexual" who has no other contact with the "community", then these publications have proven their most precious value - that of helping and serving the needs of the community. Therefore, it is vital that these publications continue to be accessible and available in rural areas.

From all of us at Queer North Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Grande Prairie (and Beyond) THANK YOU for providing the contact and support we need to continue to make our communities a wonderful place to be.

Gordon Pellerin, coordinator  
Queer North Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Box 1492, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3- (403) 539-3325 e-mail: spak@telusplanet.net OR pellerin@gprc.ab.ca

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## Hair Loss - It's a Good Thing!

OK, so you've been diligently working out all winter long. Watching what you eat. Doing endless sets of crunches. You're cut. You're buffed. But when you look in the mirror, you don't see bulging pecs and washboard abs; the view is straight out of Planet of the Apes. Or maybe you've got that uni-brow look - effective if you happen to be a hit man, but not one of your more stylish approaches to personal grooming.

How to solve the problem? There's always the good old Bic. But hey, if you think it's enough work to keep your face free of stubble, nicks and ingrown hairs, consider how much fun you'll have trying to keep ahead of that jungle on your back. You could try electrolysis, but unless you've got a lot of money and time, you're probably just as well off yanking the hair out with tweezers.

A better solution is waxing, according to Scott Krewenchuk of Studio at the Inn. He says that a professional waxing will get rid of hair for up to six weeks on most men, without the nasty itch of stubble when the hair grows back. A big bonus for many guys is that over time the hair that does grow back is less coarse, and needs to be removed less frequently. And waxing is inexpensive; eyebrow shapings are as little as twelve dollars.

According to Krewenchuk, more men are turning to waxing. They're taking better care of themselves, and want to show it off. Lots of clients have told us that enough is enough. They're tired of shaving down to their collarbone and are sick of having to constantly wear an undershirt. Men are now using the full range of waxing services, from basic eyebrow shaping right down to those, um, unmentionable areas which, for some estheticians (the people who do the actual waxing) is a problem when working with men. But not, says Krewenchuk, for the estheticians at the Studio. Our staff is totally professional, and can accommodate any reasonable request.

So if you're a throwback to the days when man walked around with nothing but hair to protect him from the elements hey, those days are long gone! Step out of the Stone Age. Lose the hair - try waxing and a warm sweater instead!

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## The Liaison Committee

*The Edmonton Police Service  
in cooperation with the  
Edmonton Gay and Lesbian Community*



- promoting effective two-way communication
- promoting education and awareness
- identifying and resolving crime and safety concerns
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**To contact the committee, call: 421-2277**  
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# News From GLCCE



by Fred Dicker

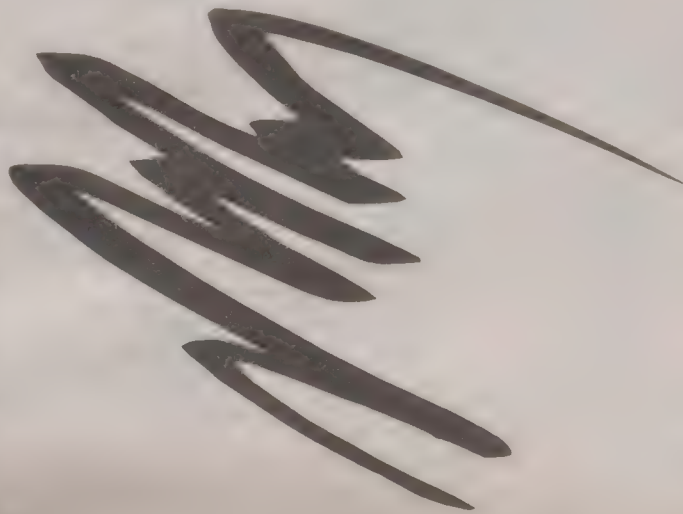
## Youth Group:

"Youth Understanding Youth" is proud to announce their new name. They meet every Saturday from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Centre. This group is being well attended and is an excellent opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth to meet and socialize aged 25 and under. This group is also growing and changing and is seeking direction from youth, not adults, so it can better meet the needs of the Youth of Edmonton. For more information call the Centre.

## Support Groups:

The Centre is again co-

operating with the Gay Men's Outreach Crew of the AIDS Network and offering free educational and support workshops, that are facilitated discussion groups. "Coming



Out in the '90's" started January 28 and is now complete. "Being Gay in the '90's" is to start on March 18. These workshops involve a commitment of time to attend

from 7 to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays for 6 & 8 weeks, respectively and are held at St. Stephen's College on the U of A campus. "Talking Together" is a facilitated discussion evening from 7 to 9 p.m. every Sunday evening on a drop-in when you can basis at the Centre. For more information call GMOC at 944-1394 ext. 4662

or the Centre. There is also a Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evening every week starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Breadstick Cafe (10159-82

Avenue). Call Graham at 463-2098 for more information.

For women, there is a workshop called, "Coming Out in the '90's" which started on Wednesday, February 11 and will go for 8 weeks at the Centre. All these workshops with a specific term will be happening again soon so do call for more information.

## Pride Awards:

Pride Awards for our community will be awarded at 8:00 pm on Saturday, May 23 in the Bus Barns with the Pride dance to follow. There is the Michael Phair Award for long term contribution to our community by a man and the Maureen Irwin Award is for long term contribution to our community by a woman. There are also a number of Pride Certificates to be awarded for outstanding contribution to our community by an individual, group or event. Please do nominate anyone you feel is deserving of recognition by our community. Who are your heroes? Please contact the Centre.

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# Taking Human Rights Seriously

By Murray Billet

Recently history has been made by both the Government of Alberta, and more importantly our citizens' response to the government. In an unprecedented, unbelievable move Klein and his Tories invoked the not with standing clause of the Charter. This to deny the very Albertans that were abused by this provincial government. The following day Klein and Havelock reversed their decision. For the first time since moving to Alberta I honestly felt incredibly proud of the people of this province. It is the phone calls from everyday citizens telling the politicians "we take human rights seriously!"

Our Government has proven to members of the Gay and Lesbian community and to the rest of this province that they will do what's got to done to protect themselves from reality and the hypothetically horrible. There are those who believe that this was a test to see how people would react to using the charter against the Vriend Decision that is yet to be released. Quite frankly, I could care less why they did this. It is simply wrong to deny anyone human rights.

Regardless of Klein's shortsighted fire - ready - aim decision-making, our community has to respond loud and clear. I know many of you have already made phone calls, faxes or e-mails. It has to be made clear to each and every MLA and Premier that using the charter to restrict human rights is nothing short of UNACCEPTABLE. They have made it clear that they have not ruled out using the charter to deny our community our human rights. In the event the Supreme Court rules in our favor, they may do the same thing. We can not sit back and let this happen. You and your friends and your family must write letters and make phone calls. We are working within other Equality seeking communities to stage rallies in both Calgary and in Edmonton. We are expecting a decision in the next few months. The Supreme Court gives very little notice, they advise us on a Monday that the decision will be released two days later on the Thursday. That gives us about two and half days to mobilize. We will be holding a rally at the Legislative Grounds at 5:00pm. In Calgary it will be at 5:00pm at Government House.

As soon as you hear the decision will be released please do what ever you can to attend the rally at the Legislative grounds. It will be all over the media, so bring everyone that you can. There will be all kinds of people at this rally for HUMAN RIGHTS. It is not just "GLBT Rally" The time has come for us to take Human Rights seriously. If there was ever a time when we must pull together, show up and prove that we exist, it will be at this Rally. We have done it at Pride Parades- we can do it again. I encourage you and all you know to attend. Remember discrimination hinders coming out...But.... Coming out hinders discrimination.

If you have any questions or concerns you can leave a message for me at GLCCE 488-3234

**The Premier's E-mail**  
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## Free To Be Volleyball Association Strong and Growing

I am pleased with the continued success of the Free To Be Volleyball Association. The number of participants continues to grow as the association fulfills its mandate to provide opportunities for volleyball players to participate in their sport. The organization started three years ago as a mere thought. Today there are five leagues as part of the association: recreational, competitive, tournament, beach and men's city.

The recreational league has a strong attendance record. I've notice some of the recreational players have dropped into the competitive league for skill development. I encourage other recreational players to do the same.

There has been an influx of new players in the competitive league. Most impressive is the fact that 4 very strong womyn have

joined the league. There was talk of forming a womyn's team at one time. Hopefully we can fulfill this vision in the future.

The tournament league has been focussed on the Calgary Cup in Calgary, April 9-12. The new coach onboard has been a great asset to player preparation. Three teams will have represented



Edmonton this year. The next tournament will be in Vancouver. Dates have been moved to late July to accommodate the Gay Games in Amsterdam in

early August.

Beach volleyball will likely start at the beginning of June. I am looking for somebody to help host a weekly volleyball game at the Garneau sand courts. Qualifications: person that doesn't mind a little sand in their shorts after a night of rough play.

The men's city league wrapped up in March. The team was strong enough to move up one tier during the season. Hopefully we can build another queer team for next year to kick ass with those city boys. I'm hoping that number 11 returns next year as well.

I'd like to offer my personal thanks to the avid volleyball player that keep this association strong and to Rick, Darcy and Mark for the help they given in organizing the leagues.

For details:

Contact Rick at 497-7585 regarding the recreational league. Contact Andrew at 435-9379 regarding tournaments, competitive, beach and men's city leagues.

Andrew Schuster  
Association Co-ordinator



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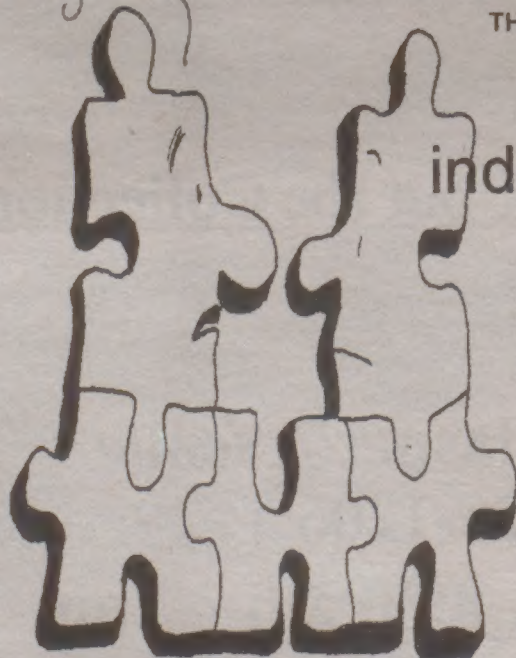
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## ANTI-LESBIAN AND GAY VIOLENCE CLIMBS 2% NATIONALLY; NCAVP RELEASES ITS 4th ANNUAL REPORT

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) today released its ~ Annual Report, "Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, HIV (LGBTH) Violence in 1997." It documents a 2% rise in anti-LGBTH violence across the country. The report is an analysis of data collected by 14 national community-based programs recording anti-LGBTH violence, with anecdotal information from nine additional programs.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice and other law enforcement agencies, there were double-digit decreases in violent crime reported nationally in 1997. In contrast, the NCAVP statistics indicate that hate-motivated violence continues to be a severe problem for the LGBTH community. In fact, the LGBTH community does not appear to be benefiting from the much-publicized reduction in crime generally seen across the country.

Also, the number of reported offenders who were law enforcement officers increased by 76% nationally, from 266 in 1996 to 468 in 1997. In addition, reports of unjustified arrests increased by 48% and the number of victims who refused to report incidents to the police increased by 21%.

"It is an extremely disturbing trend that more and more people are suffering homophobic violence at the hands of the police, the very people who are entrusted with ensuring the safety of all citizens," said Jeffrey Montgomery, Interim Executive Director of the Triangle Foundation, a member agency of NCAVP. "It is not surprising that statistics continue to show that many victims of anti-LGBTH violence are reluctant or unwilling to seek help from the police or file police reports of an incident."

NCAVP called for police training programs and disciplinary procedures to be vastly improved in order to reverse these trends, Montgomery noted. "If drastic steps are not taken, police officers will continue to be part of the problem, rather than a part of the solution."

Another trend the report documented was an increase in serial incidents by 36% in 1997. Serial incidents are defined as continuous violence and harassment by one offender against a single victim over a period of time and, frequently, such incidents occur in and around the victim's home, community or workplace. The perpetrators are often known to the victim and often live in the victim's neighborhood or building. The largest increase in serial incidents occurred amongst victims who suffered a staggering ten or more previous violent incidents at the hands of the same offender (66%) and incidents occurring in or around the victim's private residence rose 24%.

"Regrettably, our work with victims has shown that law enforcement often fails to intervene on behalf of victims in these serial situations, claiming that these incidents are simply 'neighborhood disputes,'" said Montgomery. "In most serial incidents, however, the violence tends to spiral out of control and victims are left helpless as the criminal justice system remains unresponsive. These incidents, coupled with the failure of law enforcement to intervene, has had a chilling effect on the LGBTH community's ability to feel any sense of safety."

A notable change in 1997 was the 36% increase in the number of heterosexuals reporting that they were victims of anti-LGBTH crime. "This sharp rise underscores the fact that hate crimes are crimes of



perception. Victims are chosen not necessarily because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender or HIV positive, but because the perpetrator perceives them to be. These statistics send a clear unambiguous message that NO ONE is safe from hate crimes and that it is in everyone's interest to stop this epidemic of hate," said Montgomery.

Historically, anti-LGBTH violence climbs to its highest levels in the month of June when communities across the country are celebrating Pride Month. In 1997, June was once again the most violent month; however, the number of incidents reported in June was nearly matched by the number of incidents reported in March and April. Both months experienced an increase over 1996.

"We believe this rather alarming rise in anti-LGBTH violence in March and April is related to the unprecedented national attention given to the "coming out" of actress Ellen DeGeneres and her television character Ellen Morgan during this period," said Montgomery. "The tidal wave of publicity surrounding Ellen's coming out seems to have spurred a homophobic backlash. Part of the responsibility for inflaming the violence belongs to the leaders of the Radical Right who were widely quoted condemning Ellen and ABC. Additionally, the lesbian bar in Atlanta, Georgia received considerable national focus during these months. Yet again, our statistics demonstrate the strong correlation between increased visibility and the lack of moral leadership by prominent figures in society and increased levels of violence."

A significant trend to emerge from the NCAVP data is that anti-LGBTH violence at schools and colleges rose 34% in 1997. The number of victims under the age of 18 also increased by 37% last year, while

violence against those in the 18 to 22 age group increased 35%. "These troubling numbers seem to indicate that schools are failing to institute effective anti-bias curricula-if they have any such programs at all-and are negligent in their duty to protect their students from violence and harassment. The role of schools is especially important in the fight against bias-related violence because negative attitudes toward the LGBTH community are often instilled in children by their families," said Montgomery.

Moreover, NCAVP reported that, in 1997 a very large percentage of offenders were people under the age of 22. Of the offenders whose age was reported, over 43% were in this under 22 age group. "Teachers and administrators have an obligation to keep their students safe, including LGBTH youth," said Montgomery. "They can only meet this obligation by creating a climate in the schools that promotes acceptance of people regardless of their sexual orientation, gender-identity of I-HV status."

In 1997, there was a 67% increase in bomb threats or bombings against LGBTH individuals and establishments, according to NCAVP documentation. This increase does not include the highly publicized bombing last year of a lesbian bar in Atlanta. "The increase in bombings and bomb threats is only one of the signs that violence against the LGBTH community has become far more intense in the past twelve months. Further illustrating the increased personal and ongoing nature of anti-LGBTH violence is the 33% increase in extortion and blackmail reported in 1997," said Montgomery.

"The statistics gathered by the national tracking programs of NCAVP clearly show that hate-motivated violence continues to be a very serious problem for the LGBTH community. As our statistics indicate, when the community receives more attention, the level of violence against it correspondingly increases, as does the viciousness of the violence. We expect the community will continue to attract more and more attention in the media and entertainment industry. This attention will undoubtedly result in the number of violent incidents increasing even further. In addition, the rise in the use of the internet has provided a new and powerful vehicle for bigots to spread their hateful views and promote more violence," said Montgomery.

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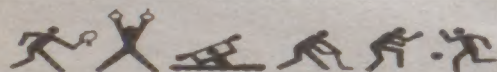
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